THE LITHUANIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

131 /3/The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic is situated in the western part of the S.S.S.R.

The territory of the Lithuanian S.S.R. constitutes 65,200 square kilometers. In the south it borders on the Polish Democratic Republic. Inside the Soviet Union Lithuania's neighbors are: in the north, the Latvian S.S.R.; in the west and the southwest, the Kaliningrad Oblast', R.S.F.S.R. The northwestern part of the Lithuanian S.S.R. occupies the coast of the Baltic Sea.

133 The surface of the Lithuanian lands presents a hilly plain, cut through by rows of elevations, lakes, swamps, and woods. There are up to 1,743 lakes in the country. The majority of these are situated in the south. The most cut-up section of the district is found in the seacoast province, which stretches form the southwest to the northeast. The elevations in the west reach from 175 to 200 meters. This is the so-called Zhemaitis* elevation, or the

*Editor's Note--Names which did not occur in English reference books available to me occur in a form transliterated from Russia and are marked with an asterisk.

Telshiai Mountains.

In the area of the lower Nemunas there is a valley that merges into a similar valley along the lower course of the Neris (Viliya) and the Nevezys rivers. A strip of valley from 20 to 25 kilometers wide extends along the Baltic seacoast which forms in the south the shallow Kurshiu Marios (Courland Spit). The landscape in the east and in the south of the Republic is extremely varied. "Hills beyond hills, and beyond those-little hillocks," thus the poet Baranauskas describes his native land. /4/ In Sarasay mountains and hillocks are surrounded by woods, and they look into the lakes as if admiring themselves. Dzukiya competes for beauty with the Sarasay country. The same hills and woods are scattered amoung fields and lake islands, like rich nosegays. Here is the largest number of lakes.

133 Zhemaitya* (Zhmud*) is beautiful, with its forests, the largest in Lithuania, and its Shatriya* and Medvagalis* mountain, steeped in legends. Zhemaitiya* ends at the Baltic Sea, with the ports of Klaipeda and Shventoiji, and with the sea resorts Palanga, Smelta, Yodkranta*, and Nida, which are known far beyond the Republic's frontiers. Palanga, with its pine woods and snow-white sand dunes is one of the finest resorts on the Baltic shore.

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